

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 245342

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:UNESCO, AORG, IS

SUBJECT:ISRAELI VIEWS ON LEMAIRE JERUSALEM VISIT

REF: A) PARIS 25295; B) PARIS 25739

1. ISRAELI EMBOFF BEN TSUR CALLED AT DEPARTMENT OCTOBER 8 TO TRY AND CLEAR UP ANY "DISTORTIONS" OF ISRAELI ATTITUDES TOWARD VISIT BY PROFESSOR LEMAIRE TO JERUSALEM.

2. BEN TSUR SAID THAT WHEN FIRST CONTACTED BY BOLLAS OF UNESCO SECRETARIAT ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A LEMAIRE VISIT, FIRST REACTION OF GOI WAS AFFIRMATIVE, AND BOLLAS AND GOI AGREED ON LETTER OF INVITATION AND RESPONSE FOR VISIT THAT WAS TO TAKE PLACE MID-SEPTEMBER.

3. BECAUSE OF TRAVEL PLANS OF CERTAIN GOI OFFICIALS, LEMAIRE WAS ASKED TO POSTPONE VISIT. WHEN RESPONSE FROM
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UNESCO CAME BACK GOI WAS "ASTONISHED" AT CHANGES OF

WORDING, ABOUT WHICH THEY HAD HAD NO NOTICE.

4. BEN TSUR WENT ON TO SAY THAT GOI HAS HAD NO SATISFACTION FROM UNESCO SECRETARIAT ON REASONS FOR THIS CHANGE,

AND THEY FEEL UNDERLYING PROBLEM IS WITH THE DG WHO IS

BEING UNHELPFUL TO ISRAELIS AND WHO IS NOT INTERESTED IN MENDING ISRAELI/UNESCO CRISIS.

5. GOI CONTINUES IN POSITION THAT THEY HAVE NO OBJECTION TO LEMAIRE COMING THE LAST PART OF OCTOBER, BUT THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HIS TERMS OF REFERENCE, AND THAT THE RECENT LETTER FROM UNESCO BE WITHDRAWN, AND THE ORIGINAL, WITH AGREED LANGUAGE, SENT IN ITS PLACE. ON THE MATTER OF HIS SEEING ALLON, BEN TSUR LEFT THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THIS WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE AS THEY DID NOT CONSIDER LEMAIRE'S VISIT POLITICAL.

6. COMMENT: OUR IMPRESSION HAD BEEN THAT DG HAD BEEN TRYING TO BE HELPFUL AND NOT CRITICAL IN DEALING WITH WHOLE RANGE OF ISRAELI/UNESCO PROBLEMS IN SPITE OF BEING FRUSTRATED AND CONCERNED BY SPATE OF ANTI-UNESCO PUBLICITY AND EVEN ATTACKS AGAINST HIM PERSONALLY BECAUSE OF UNESCO'S ACTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS MISSION MAY WISH TO MAKE ON DG'S ROLE, AS MISSION, DG, AND ISRAELIS SEE IT. DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE MISSION'S AND SECRETARIAT'S VIEWS ON TERMS OF REFERENCE QUESTION AND THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHAT MIGHT BE DONE ABOUT LEMAIRE VISIT AND WHAT COUNTRY SHOULD DO IT. KISSINGER

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